

COMPARISON OF UK CURRICULUM WITH MALAYSIA CURRICULUM
ZOOMING INTO ENGLISH FOR LOWER SECONDARY
(YEAR 7 AND FORM 1)

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COMPARISON OF UK CURRICULUM WITH MALAYSIA CURRICULUM
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(YEAR 7 AND FORM 1)

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Dedicated to:

Mum and Dad who always believe in me

Ronnie and Alexis who always cheering me on

My siblings and students who inspire me to do my best

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ABSTRACT

The issue of English competency among Malaysians especially the younger generation continues to haunt our education system. Recently, the government has abolished the 40 per cent cap for local students to enrol in international schools nationwide “with immediate effect”. This opens door for many parents who want an English medium education for their children. The reality is that there are already many foreign curriculums in the market. There are many private schools that run the UK Cambridge programme and American programme. The purpose of this study was to investigate the similarities and differences of the curriculums between UK and Malaysia for lower secondary by reviewing their overall curriculum aims and objectives specifically looking at a single English syllabus that caters for lower secondary learners. Since the UK Cambridge programme is implemented in Malaysia, the researcher also seeks to find out whether the curriculum matches our National Education Philosophy (NEP). This is a comparative document analysis research, which compares two documented English syllabus of two different countries. The researcher had also interviewed two teachers that are teaching the UK Cambridge Year 7 English and Malaysia Form One English. The principal conclusion was that both syllabuses have their own strength and limitation. While Year 7 English syllabus might be too hard for the general Malaysians Form One students but it provides a platform to challenge those with better English competency.

ABSTRAK

Isu penguasaan Bahasa Inggeris di kalangan rakyat Malaysia terutamanya generasi muda terus menghantui system pendidikan kita. Baru-baru ini, kerajaan telah memansuhkan kuota 40 peratus untuk pelajar-pelajar tempatan berdaftar di sekolah-sekolah antarabangsa di seluruh negara yang berkuatkuasa serta-merta. Ini memberi peluang kepada ibubapa yang hendak anak-anak mereka belajar dengan menggunakan bahasa Inggeris sebagai bahasa pengantar. Realitinya adalah terdapat banyak kurikulum asing di pasaran dan banyak sekolah swasta yang menjalankan program UK Cambridge dan program dari Amerika. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mencari persamaan dan perbezaan antara kurikulum UK dan Malaysia dengan mengkaji keseluruhan matlamat kurikulum dan objektif. Secara khusus kajian ini melihat satu sukatan pelajaran Bahasa Inggeris yang menampung pelajar menengah rendah. Memandangkan program UK Cambridge dilaksanakan di Malaysia, penyelidikan ini juga bertujuan untuk mengetahui sama ada kurikulum tersebut sesuai dengan Falsafah Pendidikan Negara. Penyelidikan ini adalah analisis perbandingan dokumen yang membandingkan dua dokumentasi sukatan pelajaran Bahasa Inggeris. Penyelidik juga telah menemubual dua orang guru yang mengajar Bahasa Inggeris di Tahun 7 UK Cambridge dan Tingkatan Satu. Kesimpulannya adalah bahawa kedua-dua sukatan pelajaran mempunyai kekuatan dan batasan tersendiri. Walaupun sukatan pelajaran Bahasa Inggeris Tahun 7 mungkin terlalu sukar untuk pelajar Malaysia amnya, tetapi ia menyediakan satu landasan untuk mencabar mereka untuk lebih lagi menguasai Bahasa Inggeris.